

OUTGOING MESSAGE

Approved For Release 2003/08/08 : CIA-RDP78S01932A000100180061-2

SIGNAL CENTER USE ONLY

PAGE COI ACP TOG TPE MRD DCI TRI

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CLASSIFICATION

DATE-TIME GROUP

CITE

CIA/WHSS

SOURCE REF:

CIA/DCI/WH/2WH 741126

1	4	7	10
2	5	8	11
3	6	9	12

TO: IMMEDIATE WHITE HOUSE//SITUATION ROOM FOR MR FAZIO.

ITEM NO: LR-4

DATE: 26 NOVEMBER 1979

SUBJECT: CHINESE ENGINEER REGIMENT DEPARTING LAOS

REF

THE CHINESE 817TH

ENGINEER REGIMENT AT PHONG SALLY IN NORTHWEST LAOS BEGAN TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY ON NOVEMBER 23. ROAD WORK HAS CEASED IN THE AREA IN WHICH IT HAD BEEN ACTIVE, AND THE CHINESE HAVE BEEN HOLDING ROAD TRANSFER CEREMONIES PRIOR TO TURNING ROUTE 4/49--WHICH RUNS SOUTHWEST FROM PHONG SALLY TO PENG-LA--OVER TO THE LAOTIANS.

THE 817TH ENGINEER REGIMENT HAS BEEN IN LAOS SINCE LATE 1972 AND IS ONE OF SOME SEVEN CHINESE ENGINEER REGIMENTS IDENTIFIED IN LAOS. IT IS LIKELY THAT THE UNIT WILL BE REPLACED SINCE THE CHINESE ARE STILL ENGAGED IN A MAJOR ROAD CONSTRUCTION PROJECT IN THE NORTH CENTRAL PART OF THE COUNTRY.

CHINESE STRENGTH IN LAOS IS NOW ESTIMATED AT OVER 23,000 MEN

DATE:
ORIG:
UNIT:
EXT:

NSA review completed

RELEASING OFFICER

COORDINATING OFFICERS

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WITH THE DEPARTURE OF THE 179TH IT WILL BE REDUCED ABOUT 2,500.

E-2 IMPDET.

25X1

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ORIG
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EXT

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